

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06389 080151Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 PA-02 ICA-20 FAA-00
DOTE-00 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8874

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6389

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CASC CO
SUBJ: N5708-J

1. COLOMBIAN NEWSPAPER EL TIEMPO REPORTED ON JULY 5, 1978 THAT AIRCRAFT N-5708-J, OF US REGISTRY, CESSNA MODEL 206, LOST IN 1971, HAD BEEN FOUND BY A PEASANT WHERE IT APPARENTLY CRASHED IN A NEARLY INACCESSIBLE PART OF THE CAQUETA REGION OF COLOMBIA, NEAR THE CAGUAN RIVER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE PLANE WAS REGISTERED TO THE MISSION OF CHRIST, A UNITED STATES EVANGELICAL GROUP THEN OPERATING IN COLOMBIA. ACCORDING TO EL TIEMPO, THE PEASANT SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN THE REMAINS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE PLANE CRASH. THE OFFICIAL COLOMBIAN LIST OF VICTIMS INCLUDED: MARIO CALDERON AND HIS SON, OF CAQUETA, MYRIAM DE ARANGO AND HER THREE CHILDREN, NATIONALITY UNKNOWN, AND ONE PERSON NEVER IDENTIFIED. THE PEASANT CLAIMED THAT THE PLANE IS PARTIALLY DESTROYED AND THAT THE NOSE OF THE PLANE IS IN THE RIVER. EL TIEMPO STATED THAT ARMY AND POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE SENT AN EXPEDITION TO SEARCH FOR THE PLANE, BUT THAT IT SHOULD TAKE THEM APPROXIMATELY FOUR DAYS TO REACH THE PLANE AND TO RETURN.

2. COLOMBIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES, CONTACTED BY EMB, REPORTED THAT SEARCH EXPEDITION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY OFFICIALS IN CAQUETA, BUT THAT CIVIL AVIATION TAKING NO ROLE IN SEARCH,
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PARTLY BECAUSE REPORT 7 YEARS AGO OF ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF SAME PLANE PROVED TO BE MERELY A DEVICE BY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING TO HAVE DISCOVERED THE PLANE SWINDLED EXPENSE MONEY FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

3. EMB WILL REPORT ON RESULTS OF SEARCH BY ARMY AND POLICE OFFICIALS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT MISSION OF CHRIST

HERE.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
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Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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